

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 271721Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2152
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16314

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GW
SUBJ: LOCKHEED, NORTHROP AND THE FRG

REF: (A) BONN 16205; (B) 14784(NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LATEST VOLLEY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS-RELATED BATTLE OVER ALLEGED ILLEGAL PAYMENTS BY LOCKHEED TO CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS WAS FIRED BY STRAUSS IN INTERVIEW WITH WELT AM SONNTAG SEPTEMBER 26 ISSUE. STRAUSS ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FOLLOWED EXAMPLES OF JAPAN AND NETHERLANDS IN OBTAINING USG DOCUMENTS ON LOCKHEED AND INITIATING ORDERLY PROCEEDINGS. HIS ANSWER IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNEW FROM ITS OFFICIALS WHO HAD BEEN TO WASHINGTON TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER THAT THE ACCUSATION IT DESIRES FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS BUT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MAINTAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT "THERE IS SOMETHING IN IT" UNTIL OCTOBER 3 (ELECTION DAY). FURTHER, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT TRANSACTIONS OF THE MORE RECENT PAST INVOLVING LOCKHEED AND OTHER COMPANIES AND FORMER MINISTER FOR DEFENSE HELMUT SCHMIDT MIGHT COME UP FOR DISCUSSION.

2. STRAUSS ASKED WHY SCHMIDT HAD RECEIVED THE "DIRECTOR GENERAL" OF NORTHROP AND THEN HAD WRITTEN TO

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TOR GENERAL" OF NORTHROP AND THEN HAD WRITTEN TO

PRINCE BERNHARD AND RECOMMENDED A NORTHROP WEAPONS SYSTEM, OFFERING FINANCIAL AID IF THE NETHERLANDS IMPORTED THAT SYSTEM. STRAUSS SAID THAT THAT WAS TRULY AN INCIDENT THAT SHOULD CAUSE THE PRESS TO MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.
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3. COMMENT: FRG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FRITZ JOSEF RATH RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD NO EVIDENCE OF ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY NORTHROP IN GERMANY. AS NOTED REF B, FORMER CDU MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG FRANZ JOSEF BACH ADMITTED TO REPRESENTING NORTHROP THROUGH A SWISS CORPORATION. HIS JOB WAS TO RECOMMEND NORTHROP PRODUCTS TO INFLUENTIAL OFFICIALS IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT REVEALING THAT HE WAS A PAID REPRESENTATIVE OF NORTHROP. HE CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT HE LIMITED SUCH ACTIVITIES TO CONTACTS IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN GERMANY. EMBASSY HAS NO OTHER INDICATION OF NORTHROP ACTIVITY OF THIS NATURE IN GERMANY.
HILLENBRAND

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